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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Langer

DATE: 19 December 1950

FROM : Abbot Smith

SUBJECT: NIE-17 Probable Soviet Reaction to a
Remilitarization of Germany

1. Before the IAC meeting on this paper, your attention should be called to a rather bad misprint on page 2, line 2, where the word defensive ought to read offensive.

2. Despite the consensus of yesterday's meeting, I do not feel that the paper in its present form does justice to the diplomatic possibilities open to the Soviets in their approaches to the powers of Western Europe. At the end of paragraph 3 and in paragraph 6 we now give the impression that the Soviets will use a Council of Foreign Ministers merely for obstructionist and propagandist purposes, that they will have no constructive proposals to make save for a unification of Germany on the obviously unacceptable terms of the Prague Declaration, and that they will be content if they can scare the Western powers into cancelling or postponing plans for German rearmament.

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4. Of course none of these may come to fruition. Nevertheless there are many reasons why the Soviets might think this a good time to woo France and Britain with proposals on Germany which could not be forthwith rejected. We should not become so concentrated on our estimate that the Soviet objective in Germany is to unify the country under their own control that we suppose they intend to accomplish this aim in one step, without intermediate maneuvers.

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		
DATE <u>12/19</u>		
TO: <u>Dr. Langer</u>		
BUILDING	ROOM NO.	
REMARKS: <u>Thru</u> [REDACTED] <u>Sir: I have notified agencies to make this correction.</u> CONFIDENTIAL		
FROM: [REDACTED]		
BUILDING	ROOM NO.	EXTENSION

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